

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SAJ-01 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:JKWARD:DHT

APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE

EUR/CE:DANDERSON

EUR/P:SEIDNER

A/SY/EX:GHARVEY

M:FSPOTTS

S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE

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USMISSION NATO

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UNCLAS STATE 085457

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW, BW, UK, FR, CA, NATO, UR, US

SUBJECT: US PRESS REPORTS ON GDR INTELLIGENCE AGENT

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1. APRIL 8 WASHINGTON POST CARRIED FRONT PAGE ARTICLE

CONCERNING JAMES FREDERICK SATTLER, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO HAS ADMITTED TO TRANSMITTING INFORMATION TO THE GDR. NEW YORK TIMES ALSO CONTAINED SIMILAR ARTICLE SAME DAY. MAIN POINTS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW.

2. JAMES FREDERICK SATTLER, A US CITIZEN, WHO WAS LAST EMPLOYED BY THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL, FILED A REGISTRATION STATEMENT WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE FOREIGN AGENT'S REGISTRATION ACT MARCH 23 IN WHICH HE ADMITTED TO HAVING BEEN RECRUITED BY AN EAST GERMAN CONNECTED WITH THE COMBINED INTELLIGENCE SERVICES OF THE WARSAW TREATY (NATIONS). NEW YORK TIMES STATES EAST GERMAN WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTITUTE OF MARXISM AND LENINISM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SED.

3. SATTLER WAS RECRUITED IN 1967 AND SINCE THEN PASSED INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FROM THE US, UK, FRANCE, FRG, CANADA AND NATO TO EAST BERLIN. HE RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY \$15,000.00 FOR HIS SERVICES AND ALSO WAS GIVEN AN "HONOR AWARD" BY THE GDR MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY. IN 1975, SATTLER WAS INSTRUCTED TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT IN THE USG WHICH WOULD GIVE HIM ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT HIRED BY ANY USG AGENCY.

4. POST AND TIMES NOTE THAT SATTLER WAS EMPLOYED BY THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL, A PRIVATE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION AND DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION THERE ACCORDING TO A COUNCIL OFFICIAL. ACCORDING TO NEW YORK TIMES, SATTLER'S EMPLOYMENT AT THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL WAS TERMINATED ON APRIL 1.

5. PRESS ARTICLES STATE THAT ON APRIL 7, A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT SATTLER WOULD NOT BE PROSECUTED DUE TO THE "LACK OF ESSENTIAL WITNESSES". ACCORDING TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, SATTLER WAS IN VIOLATION OF US LAW UNTIL HE REGISTERED WITH JUSTICE, HOWEVER IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HIS ACTIVITIES THEMSELVES VIOLATED US LAW. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ESPIONAGE AGENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE085457
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKWARD:DHT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760134-0152
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760477/aaaacnuq.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <15 DEC 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US PRESS REPORTS ON GDR INTELLIGENCE AGENT UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PFOR, GC, GE, BW, UK, FR, CA, UR, US, NATO, (SATTLER, JAMES FREDERICK)
To: BERLIN
BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006